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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of all mercies, open our hearts to the forgiving, healing work of Your Spirit that we may find our greatness in serving You and bringing good into the hearts and homes and work and play of others.

Sustain the Members of this body in their labors today. May they so strive to please You that even enemies will be transformed into friends. Remind them that a love of justice brings true power. Help them to speak with such kindness that others will want to listen. Teach them that though they make important decisions, You alone determine what happens.

God of grace and mercy, so bless our land that the people of the Earth will glorify Your name.

Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN ENSIGN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 7, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENSIGN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will resume the debate on Executive Calendar No. 72, the nomination of Janice Rogers Brown to be a U.S. circuit judge for the DC Circuit. The cloture vote is scheduled for noon today. We will have a debate equally divided until then. I expect that cloture will be invoked, and once that vote is concluded, I will discuss with the Democratic leader a time for the up-or-down vote on Janice Rogers Brown. I remind everyone that following that confirmation vote, we will proceed to the cloture vote on the Pryor nomination.

Again, I hope we can expedite the final vote on each of these nominations once the cloture votes have been completed. We have other nominations to consider this week, including the additional judicial nominations that have time agreements already locked in place.

### VISIT BY TURKISH PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Wednesday, I will have the honor of meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan here in the Capitol. We will be meeting to discuss the importance of the United States-Turkish relationship and the ways in which

we can strengthen that bond to achieve our common goals. I have had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister twice before over the past 12 months.

During a trip to the Middle East this spring, I sat down with Prime Minister Erdogan in Jerusalem. Prior to that, we met in Istanbul in the summer of 2004.

I look forward to continuing our dialog on the importance of the Turkish-American relationship. Turkey is a critical NATO ally and an indispensable partner in the global war on terror.

Despite our two countries' strong ties and close cooperation, there have been strains in the recent past that began with the liberation of Iraq in the spring of 2003. Some in the press speculate that Istanbul and Washington are going their separate ways. This is simply not the case.

It is true that March of 2003, the Turkish parliament rejected our request to permit the deployment of U.S. troops to Turkey in order to open a northern front against Saddam's forces. Clearly, we were not pleased. However, Turkey's subsequent offer to send troops to Iraq and President Bush's visit to Turkey last June moved our partnership beyond that matter.

Turkey has granted coalition forces overflight rights through Turkish airspace throughout the war in Iraq and has permitted the use of its ports, airbases, and roads for resupplying coalition troops on supporting reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Because of its proximity, Turkey's Incirlik airbase has also served as a vital transit location for coalition troops rotating in and out of Iraq. In fact, from January to April 2004, half of all U.S. troops rotating in and out of Iraq went through Incirlik, and Turkey recently agreed to allow coalition forces to use the base as a logistics hub. Turkey's assistance and support has been invaluable.

Turkey has also been a leader in Iraq's reconstruction efforts. At the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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